REMARKS

Claim 6 remains for further consideration. No new matter has been added.

The objections and rejections shall be taken up in the order presented in the Official Action.


1.   Claims 6 stands rejected for allegedly being obvious in view of U.S. Patent 6,611,537 to Edens (hereinafter "Edens") in view of U.S. Patent 5,642,151 to Nusbickel (hereinafter "Nusbickel").

The Official Action acknowledges that Eden is silent on transmitting decompressed video data onto the ring network. (see Official Action, pg. 4). The Official Action contends that Nusbickel provides decompressed video signals onto a ring network. (see Official Action, pg. 4). The Official Action further contends that a skilled person will have found it obvious to modify the system of Edens to transmit decompressed video signals onto the ring network to support devices without dedicated video decoders. (see Official Action, pgs. 4-5). The Official Action alleges that Edens itself suggests such a modification by describing how audio data is decompressed by an MPEG decoder and the decompressed audio is transmitted onto the ring network, for example to the loudspeakers. (see Official Action, pg. 5). It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Edens and Nusbickel fails to render obvious the claimed invention.

As recited in claim 6, the control unit of the fourth subscriber controls the transmission of (i) decompressed audio data and (ii) decompressed video data onto a ring network. In contrast, Edens seeks to avoid providing decompressed video onto the ring network, since the system of Edens includes an MPEG decoder with every video display device. That this is so is clearly

illustrated in FIG. 1 where each video display device includes an associated MPEG decoder. FIG. 1 is reproduced below and marked up to indicate the location of the MPEG decoders adjacent to its respective TV display.
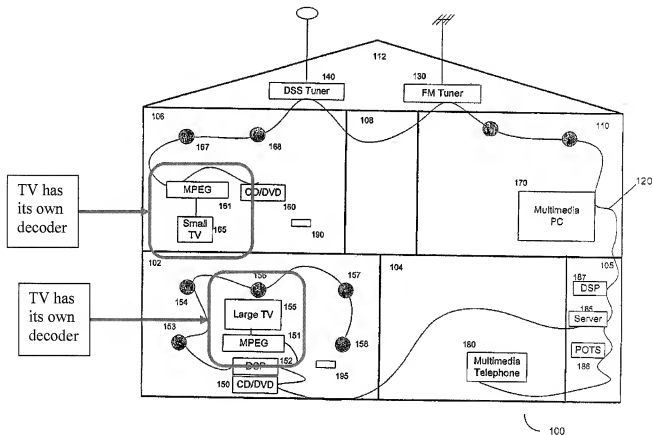
If the system of Edens was amended as suggested in the Official Action by the subject matter disclosed in Nusbickel, then Edens would no longer function for its intended purpose. Again, Edens repeatedly and consistently states that the video decompression occurs only after the decompressed data has left the logical ring network, and this is illustrated in the figure reproduced above which shows an MPEG decoder adjacent to each TV. For example, Edens states:

- "As will be explained below for one embodiment, the MPEG2 decoding will occur only after such information leaves logical ring network 120 (e.g., it a television where the information will be decoded and decompressed for viewing)." (emphasis added, col. 13, lines 61-65).
- "For example, by removing MPEG2 decoders from DVD players, the compressed digital information can be distributed/ processed throughout the logical ring network before reaching its ultimate destination (e.g., a television attached to or incorporating an MPEG2 decoder)." (emphasis added, col. 10, lines 49-54).
- "As noted above, once a compressed digital audio/video signal is obtained (e.g., MPEG2 audio/video received by the DSS IRD described above, or Wavelet-encoded NTSC video received by the TV/CATV tuner described above), it can be distributed across a logical ring network to a variety of destination devices (e.g., televisions or monitors), where it can be decoded and displayed. Digitizing an analog TV/CATV broadcast and compressing the NTSC signal with the Wavelet encoder described above (or the MPEGI encoder described below) provides a compressed digital video signal that can be distributed throughout a logical ring network and decoded by a television or other monitor." (emphasis added, col. 99, lines 39-52).
- "Having described the manner in which an MPEG2 reference clock effectively can be delivered over a logical ring network (operating at a different frequency), the architecture of an MPEG2 decoder component in a device (such as a television or monitor) will now be explained." (emphasis added, col. 103, lines 57-61).

In addition, there is no need to transmit decompressed video data onto the network of Edens, since each video screen in the system of Edens includes a uniquely associated MPEG decoder. For example, referring to FIG. 1 of Edens, small TV 165 includes MPEG decoder 161, and large TV 155 includes MPEG decoder 151. It is worth noting that there is no instance in FIG. 1 of Edens of a display device that does not include a uniquely associated MPEG decoder.

Nusbickel is even critical of the system architecture of Edens by stating *"a third disadvantage to the prior art video digital server is that each workstation must contain a display docket for decompressing the video data."* (Col. 2, lines 14-16). Nusbickel further reiterates his criticism of the distributed system architecture used by Edens, by stating *"[i]n addition, the costly decompression and processing equipment needed for video data is centrally located at the server, instead of being located in each workstation, thereby reducing the cost providing video*

capability." (Col. 3, lines 16-20). So a fair and proper reading indicates that Nusbickel is critical of the type of system disclosed in Edens. The difference between Edens and Nusbickel is as much as night is day, and therefore it is respectfully submitted that a skilled person at the time of the present invention would not have modify Edens based upon the disclosure of Nusbickel to arrive at the present invention.

For all the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claim 6 is respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview could assist in the prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick J. O'Shea
Reg. No. 35,305
O'Shea Getz P.C.
1500 Main Street, Suite 912
Springfield, MA 01115
(413) 731-3100, Ext. 102